



Blue Grass Chemical Agent-
Destruction Pilot Plant

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**A Partnership for Safe
Chemical Weapons
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Systemization at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

The [Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant](#), or BGCAPP, will safely and efficiently destroy a stockpile of blister agent in projectiles and nerve agent in projectiles and rockets currently in storage at the [Blue Grass Army Depot](#). Building and safely operating BGCAPP involves six distinct stages of work including design, construction, systemization, pilot testing, operations and closure. The BGCAPP design stage was completed in 2010 and construction completed in October 2015. Systemization is under way.

Systemization involves all activities required to ensure BGCAPP is ready to begin chemical weapons destruction operations. It will prepare the BGCAPP team for mission success in three areas:

Paper: Paper refers to the development of all standard operating procedures and maintenance instructions, as well as test plans for various elements of the plant.

Plant: Systemization involves the commissioning, start-up and testing of the physical plant – ensuring all the systems and facilities work properly and function together. It includes testing of the software programs that will run the plant and also affords personnel the opportunity to access the areas and equipment in the plant that will become restricted once operations begin. As construction teams complete various facilities and structures, they will turn them over to the start-up group for testing.

People: Safety of the BGCAPP workforce is paramount. A key element of systemization involves the hiring and training of the operations and maintenance staff needed to complete the BGCAPP mission. Activities include classroom learning, practical training on physical and simulated processes, on-the-job training with mentors and a certification program.

The final step of systemization brings together all three aspects - people, plant and paper - and is referred to as optimization. Optimization includes an Operational Readiness Review process and seeks to confirm the plant is capable of conducting its mission, while being fully protective of personnel and the environment.

To support this process, each operations team will participate in Integrated Operations Demonstrations, during which they will test-run the systems and procedures that will occur during normal operations. They will also practice reacting to unexpected conditions or emergencies. Personnel will use simulated munitions to complete the demonstrations. These munitions are the same size, weight and configuration as the real chemical weapons that will be destroyed, except they do not contain chemical agent or energetics. The demonstrations will support the decision to declare readiness to begin pilot testing and chemical agent destruction operations.

Because of the complexity of the Blue Grass chemical weapons stockpile, the systemization phase at BGCAPP is expected to take about 78 months. This will allow for the various equipment and processes used for the different types of chemical agents and munitions to be fully prepared for destruction operations. Following the successful completion of systemization, the fourth project stage, called pilot testing, will begin with the gradual introduction of chemical agent-filled munitions into the system.